

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CINCLANT

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5889

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: DPC MEETING OCTOBER 23: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE

REF: A. USNATO 5758 (NOTAL); B. STATE 231867 (NOTAL)

1. UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS AT OCTOBER 23 MEETING, CHARGE MCAULIFFE INVITED DPC ATTENTION TO CURRENT DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) DISCUSSION OF US SUBMISSION ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE AND TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S OCTOBER 17 LETTER (MISSION CIRCULATED COPIES TO DPC PERMREPS ON OCTOBER 21) ON SAME SUBJECT TO MOD'S. MCAULIFFE SAID ALLIED AGREEMENT TO SPECIFIC LANGUAGE IN US DISCUSSION PAPER IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS QUOTE SERIOUS, THOUGHTFUL EXAMINATION AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON KEY ELEMENTS. END QUOTE. MCAULIFFE URGED THAT PERREPS PERSONALLY PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE DISCUSSIONS AND ENSURE THAT ISSUES, INCLUDING THOSE THAT MAY PROVE CONTRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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VERSIAL, ARE SQUARELY PRESENTED TO MINISTERS SO THEY CAN PRESENT THEIR THOUGHTS AND SUPPORTING RATIONALES DURING DECEMBER MINISTERIAL.

2. AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) SAID US MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE INITIATIVES RECOMMENDED MANY MEASURES REQUIRING POLITICAL DECISIONS AND RAISED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A. WHAT IS POLITICAL AIM OF DR. SCHLESINGER'S OCTOBER 17 LETTER?

B. WHAT TYPE OF DISCUSSIONS DOES US DESIRE DURING DECEMBER MINISTERIAL AND HOW CAN ALLIES PREPARE IN ADVANCE?

C. IS US INTERESTED IN NEW DEFENSE POSTURE FOR NATO AND, IF SO, WHICH DIRECTION DOES US WANT IT TO TAKE?

D. DOES US WANT AN AD-80 FOLLOW-ON TO AD-70?

E. DOES US WANT A REVISED MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE TO BE PREPARED QUOTE IN PARALLEL END QUOTE WITH TRADITIONAL GUIDANCE?

IN CONCLUDING, DE STAERCKE SAID DRC SHOULD COORDINATE EFFORTS ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE WITH THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND INFORM DPC PERMREPS IN NOVEMBER ABOUT PROGRESS MADE.'

3. RESPONDING TO DE STAERCKE, ASYG HUMPHREYS SAID THAT IN JUNE 1974, DPC MINISTERS CALLED FOR EARLY START BY DRC ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE WHICH WOULD BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN PREVIOUS VERSIONS AND THAT DRC HAS BEGUN WORK WITH EMPHASIS ON A LIMITED NUMBER OF KEY ELEMENTS. HUMPHREYS SAID DRC WOULD DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE FORMULATIONS OF KEY ELEMENTS AS DESIRED BY US.

4. AMBASSADOR KRAPF (FRG) SAID BONN BELIEVES THAT US INITIATIVES ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE HAVE QUOTE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES END QUOTE; HE ADDED THAT FRG TAKES DEVELOPMENT OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE VERY SERIOUSLY, AND THAT MOD LEGER WANTED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN DECEMBER MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS.MCAULIFFE

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